

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
ENERGY FACILITY SITING BOARD**

**In Re: Sea 3 Providence, LLC)
d/b/a Sea 3 Providence)
(Rail Service Incorporation Project)
25 Fields Point Drive and Seaview)
Drive Providence, Rhode Island)**

Docket No. SB-2021-03

Pre-Filed Testimony of

Monica Huertas

On Behalf of the

Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island

Topics:

**Community Impacts of
Liquid Propane Gas Storage and Rail Transport**

Date Filed: November 12, 2021

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MONICA HUERTAS

1 **Q: Please state your name for the Record.**

2
3 A: Monica Huertas.

4
5 **Q: Where do you live?**

6
7 A: I live at 216 Ohio Avenue, Providence, RI 02905, in the Washington Park neighborhood,
8 which is located in close proximity to the Port of Providence.

9
10 **Q: What is your involvement in the Port of Providence community?**

11
12 A: I have served as a Community Organizer in the Port of Providence for approximately the
13 last five years. I also serve as the Director of The People's Port Authority (previously No
14 LNG in PVD), a group committed to ensuring a safer and cleaner future for the people
15 living in the communities throughout the Port of Providence.

16
17 **Q: What is it like living near the Port of Providence?**

18
19 A: The Port of Providence is a heavily industrialized area. As a result, my family and I - as
20 well as the others living in the area – continue to suffer from numerous negative impacts.
21 There are constant issues with smells, and exhaust from heavy truck traffic. There are also
22 serious safety concerns, as we live in an area surrounded by all types of dangerous
23 chemicals stored in tanks, including LNG, LPG, tar and asphalt, and scrap yards. Not only
24 is there a high risk of accidents with all of these potential hazards within an area with less
25 than a one-mile radius, but all of the effects from industry are made worse by the
26 cumulative effects of having all of these pollution sources so close together.

27
28 **Q: What direct impacts have you or your family experienced due to traffic and air**
29 **quality?**

30
31 A: Four (4) out of the six (6) members of my household suffer from asthma as a result of the
32 poor air quality. This includes three of my children, who need to use an inhaler daily.
33 Moreover, all of the traffic creates unsafe conditions - for instance we have serious
34 concerns and fears arising from truck traffic along Allens Ave, where my children use the

1 newly-created bike path.

2
3 **Q: What impacts to your family and community do you expect from this proposed**
4 **expansion?**

5
6 A: As discussed above, the Port of Providence is already overburdened with air pollution and
7 heavy traffic. Expansion at the Sea 3 Providence, LLC facility will create additional traffic
8 and pollution the area simply cannot handle. As a result of the cumulative effects of all the
9 industry already allowed in the Port of Providence, any increase in traffic and/or pollution
10 pushes the air quality to an even riskier level. With each expansion of industry, more
11 people suffer from increased health and safety risks.

12
13 For example, many folks in the community visit the community health center on Allens
14 Ave, and they often have to wait on Allens Ave for the bus. It is very dusty and smells like
15 gas, oil and tar- just imagine being sick and having to wait for the bus down there.

16
17 **Q: Have you witnessed any disasters down at the Port before? If so, what and when?**

18
19 A: Yes, I remember multiple disasters in the Port of Providence. In March 2017, there was a
20 train carrying ethanol that derailed right beside a gas pipeline. In May of that same year,
21 there was a gas leak along Allens Ave that lasted for hours before it was able to be stopped
22 and repaired. In October 2018, there was an accident involving a tanker truck caused a gas
23 spill. In March 2021, there was a fire at one of the scrap yards.

24
25 While all of these problems were dangerous in their own right, any one of them could have
26 easily been much, much worse. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
29
30 **Q: Does this petition adequately evaluate and/or address the concerns shared by you and**
31 **the community? If not, please explain in detail.**

32
33 A: No, we are sick and tired of being sick from all of this pollution. We are overburdened
34 with the pollution and there is more than the region can safely handle. Although most of
35 the LPG that would be brought into the Port of Providence won't be used in our City, we

1 are stuck with the burden of having it next to our homes.

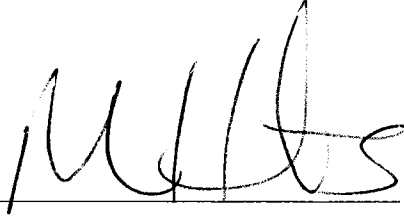
2
3 The communities most impacted by the health and safety concerns related to Sea 3
4 Providence, LLC are Environmental Justice Communities made up of working-class
5 People of Color. We deserve a waterfront that doesn't harm us, and a voice to express our
6 concerns and make sure that any approved projects consider the potentially extreme effects
7 of additional projects in the Port of Providence.

8
9 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

10
11 **A:** Yes.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby acknowledge under oath that the foregoing testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that this declaration has been executed on this 12th day of November 2021 in Providence, RI.

By: 

Name: Monica Huertas